

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 013448

11

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 /088 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 101833

R 202245Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANAA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 013448

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 013448

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: LANDING RIGHTS ON MASIRAH ISLAND: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE THIS SUBJECT OCCURRED AT DOD PRESS
BRIEFING JANUARY 20:

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT WE ARE ASKING OMAN FOR PERMISSION TO
USE AN OMANI BASE FOR OCCASIONAL LANDINGS?

A. OF COURSE THAT IS A STATE DEPARTMENT QUESTION. I THINK,
HOWEVER, THAT THAT'S ESSENTIALLY CORRECT.

Q. WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR A BASE, PER SE.

A. NO BASE. OUR ANSWER TO THE QUESTION ON A BASE WAS THAT
WE HAVE NOT EVEN BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH THEM FOR A BASE;
THEREFORE, WE HAVE NO AGREEMENT FOR A BASE. LANDING RIGHTS,
OCCASIONALLY, YES-

Q. WE HAVE NEGOTIATED FOR A BASE OR NOT?

A. WE HAVE NOT. WE'RE TALKING TWO DIFFERENT THINGS HERE,
A BASE AND LANDING RIGHTS. LANDING RIGHTS, WE'RE DISCUS-
SING; WE HAVE NOTHING ON THE BASE.

Q. HAVE THESE DISCUSSIONS BEEN CARRIED ON IN CONNECTION
WITH THIS MASSIVE ARMS SALES TO OMAN?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT. THAT WOULD HAVE TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 013448

GO TO STATE.

Q. WHAT KIND OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT WOULD WE USE THAT KIND
OF A BASE AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE.

A. I'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

2. FOLLOWING IS APPROVED PRESS GUIDANCE FOR DEPARTMENT

SPOKESMAN'S USE. SUBJECT DID NOT ARISE AT JANUARY 20
DEPARTMENT BRIEFING.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS ESTABLISHING A
BASE IN OMAN?

A. WE HAVE NO PLANS TO ESTABLISH A BASE THERE.

FYI: PRESS REPORTS FROM LONDON HAVE "AUTHORITATIVE"
BRITISH SOURCES STATING THAT U.S., OMAN AND BRITAIN ARE
NOW DISCUSSING U.S. USE OF MASIRAH.

IF PRESSED:

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE STORIES COMING FROM LONDON THAT THE
U.S., BRITAIN AND OMAN ARE DISCUSSING U.S. USE OF THE
BRITISH BASE ON THE OMANI ISLAND OF MASIRAH?

A. I HAVE SAID WE ARE NOT ESTABLISHING A BASE. WE DID
DISCUSS WITH THE RULER OF OMAN, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT
HERE, OUR INTEREST IN HAVING PERMISSION FOR U.S. MILITARY
AIRCRAFT TO USE LANDING FACILITIES OCCASIONALLY, AS
REQUIRED, AT THE AIRFIELD ON MASIRAH ISLAND IN OMAN, WHICH
IS OPERATED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. SUCH OCCASIONAL USE
IS NOW UNDER DISCUSSION WITH BOTH THE OMANI AND UK GOVERN-
MENTS.

Q. WHAT WOULD THE AIRFIELD BE USED FOR? WOULD U.S. SUP-
PORT PERSONNEL BE KEPT THERE? HAS CONGRESS BEEN NOTIFIED?

A. I AM SORRY, I CANNOT GO INTO DETAIL AT THIS POINT,
EXCEPT TO SAY THAT WE DO NOT ENVISAGE A PERMANENT IRESENCE.
AS I HAVE SAID, THE SUBJECT IS UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 013448

GOVERNMENTS. COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS CONCERNED ARE BEING
INFORMED OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. BUT WHY DID THE U.S. MAKE THE REQUEST? WHY DO YOU
NEED LANDING RIGHTS THERE?

A. I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU -- WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO
LAND AT MASIRAH OCCASIONALLY OR IN AIRCRAFT EMERGENCIES.
YOU SHOULD NOT READ ANY MORE INTO THE DUSCUSSIONS THAN
THAT. I WOULD SIMPLY NOTE THAT HAVING SUCH LANDING RIGHTS
FALLS WITHIN THE PATTERN OF MORE FREQUENT AND MORE REGULAR
U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA ANNOUNCED SOME TIME AGO.

FYI: SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, IN HIS NOVEMBER 30, 1973

PRESS CONFERENCE SAID: "WE INTEND TO REESTABLISH THE
PATTERN OF REGULAR VISITS INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN AND WE
EXPECT THAT OUR PRESENCE THERE WILL BE MORE FREQUENT AND
MORE REGULAR THAN IN THE PAST."

Q. IS THE SALE OF TOW'S A QUID PRO QUO FOR GETTING THE
LANDING RIGHTS?

A. NO. KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LANDING RIGHTS, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE013448
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MHVAN ORDER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750022-0242
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750136/aaaabfqh.tel
Line Count: 178
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LANDING RIGHTS ON MASIRAH ISLAND: PRESS GUIDANCE
TAGS: PFOR, MU, US, UK
To: MUSCAT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006